



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE  
FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 W. 15<sup>th</sup> STREET, SUITE 3200  
HELENA, MONTANA 59626

April 2, 2003

David M. Smith  
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway  
Manager Environmental Remediation  
139 North Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, MT 59601

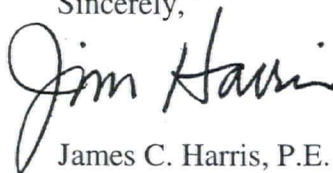
Dear Mr. <sup>Dave</sup>Smith:

The revisions to the *Technical Impracticability Evaluation for Groundwater Restoration* (TI) for the former BNSF Railroad Tie Treating Plant in Somers, Montana have been received and reviewed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and EPA. The requested revisions requested by DEQ and EPA have been incorporated and the report is now complete.

The Agencies will draft an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) which will incorporate the waiver of groundwater standards identified in the TI document into the Record of Decision (ROD) for the site. The ESD will not be finalized (the ESD will remain in draft form) until the BNSF Somers Controlled Groundwater Area has been established by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). It is anticipated that the DNRC action will take several months to complete. Once the ESD has been finalized, it will be made available for public comment and should be issued within 45 to 60 days.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this approval and schedule of activities.

Sincerely,



James C. Harris, P.E.  
Remedial Project Manager

<sup>Burt</sup>  
cc: L. DeWitt, DEQ  
J. Stearns, 8ENF-L  
M. Bell, Weston



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